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During the week ended August 27, 1904, there were 4 deaths from cholera and 5 deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal during the week ended August 20, 1904, there were 395 cases and 338 deaths from plague.

In India during the week ended August 13, 1904, there were 8,199 cases and 5,849 deaths from plague.

### *Famine in Guzerat.*

The prospects of famine in Guzerat are reported to be more and more gloomy as the days go by and prices of food grain are constantly increasing. Fodder has become so scarce in several of the districts that arrangements are being made to transport cattle to other places where sufficient pasturage may be found. There are already signs of distress among the farming class, who are daily looking for the announcement of famine and the opening of relief works. Water is running short in ponds and wells and a water famine is also threatening.

News from Broach, dated August 28, states that "the district is passing through a most anxious time. All hope of better prospects has been abandoned and it has been arranged to open relief works as an experimental measure from the beginning of next month."

### *Choleraic disease among children in the Bhul Valley.*

I have the honor to inform you that a Kulu correspondent writes to one of the local papers that "for the past two months what seems a choleraic disease has been rife in the Bhul Valley, the most southerly part of Mundi on the Suket border. The disease did not seem to attack adults, but children only, of whom about 50 have died." No further particulars are available. Cholera itself in Kulu is reported to be responsible for 40 deaths out of 63 cases observed. Despite the carelessness of the people, it is now on the decrease, having been stamped out by timely care and disinfection in Sultanpur, where it first appeared. No fresh cases are reported, save in one village, from the infected places of Koies. The assistant surgeon visited every village in Koies and explained to the villagers the benefits and importance of disinfection and the necessity of sanitary measures.

### *Cholera, plague, and smallpox during the year 1903.*

I extract the following from the report for the year 1903 of Dr. J. N. Cook, health officer of Calcutta: The death rate is high—35.1 per 1,000—the excessive mortality from plague being largely responsible for its magnitude. If the plague mortality be subtracted from the total, the figure is reduced to 25.4, which is a very moderate rate for Calcutta, the mean of the preceding five years, all cases included, being 34.1.

Deaths from plague, cholera, and smallpox for 1903 and the previous five years are as follows:

	Plague.	Cholera.	Smallpox.
1898.....	192	665	85
1899.....	2,332	990	62
1900.....	8,354	2,754	1,010
1901.....	7,883	1,720	2,097
1902.....	7,278	2,716	127
1903.....	8,222	1,990	50

Doctor Cook, in his comments upon cholera, the returns from which were rather heavy during the first half of the year, points out that very little can be done to mitigate it, as it is largely introduced by pilgrims from outside. Especially is this true of those to the Kalighat Temple. The pilgrims bathe in, defecate alongside of, and drink the water from Tolly's Nullah, a sluggish canal near the Kalighat Temple. The water of the Nullah is very impure, and has frequently been found to contain the cholera bacilli. Doctor Cook suggests that "the obvious measures are the improvement of the Nullah by diverting drainage and patrolling the banks in the early morning to prevent the commission of nuisance. The devotees who bathe in the water and drink it will continue to do so until the gradual spread of education convinces them that they can serve gods equally well without risking their lives by drinking diluted sewage." The filtered water of the city is a wholesome water, containing no free ammonia nor nitrates, no "b. typho-abdominalis, b. enteritidis sporogenes, nor comma bacilli." The only unsatisfactory feature of it was the presence of bacteria of the colon group, which were found in every examination. Bacterial counts were generally below 100 per 1 cc.

Doctor Cook makes an interesting point when he notes that the mortality from smallpox was low, as there is a more or less marked cycle in Calcutta extending over about five years, and we are at present in the period of comparative quiescence.

#### ITALY.

*Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Infectious diseases in Italy—Campaign against malaria—Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz—Plague in Africa and Turkey—Leprosy in Trinidad—Ankylostomiasis in Germany.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, September 19, as follows: During the week ended September 17, 1904, the following-named ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

#### NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Sept. 13	Prinz Adalbert.....	New York .....	453	145	750	13
15	Nord America .....	do .....	284	130	700	13
15	Giulia.....	do .....	481	20	250	17
16	Sicilian Prince.....	do .....	198	55	340	10

#### PALERMO.

Sept. 17	Sicilian Prince.....	New York .....	256	75	300	18
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#### *Infectious diseases in Italy.*

For the week ended September 15, 1904, the following is the status of infectious disease in Italy:

*Measles.*—An epidemic prevailing in Roccagorga (Rome) since July last has claimed more than 100 victims in a population of 2,000. It is now reported that the number of cases is considerably lessening.